

FELLOW INDIANS,

WAKE UP!

VVPATS ARE CURRENTLY
BEING USED AS A MERE
TOOL TO FOOL US.

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Fellow Indians, Wake Up!

“If we wish to preserve the Constitution in which we have sought to enshrine the principle of Government of the people, for the people and by the people, let us resolve not to be tardy in the recognition of the evils that lie across our path and which induce people to prefer Government for the people to Government by the people, nor to be weak in our initiative to remove them. That is the only way to serve the country. I know of no better.”

Dr. B.R.Ambedkar

VVPAT's purpose - Provide a voter verified paper trail to audit whether EVMs have recorded votes correctly.

Proper audit with an adequate sample size is the essential component of using VVPATs.

Without proper audit, VVPAT may become just a tool to fool voter giving them a false sense of verifiability & scrutiny.

This VVPAT audit needs to be done on a sample, selected by transparent & independent Randomization.

On detecting any mismatch In the audit, there needs to be provision/rule to do full audit of 100% VVPATs of the constituency.



Any mismatch in the sample VVPAT audit indicates that votes are not correctly recorded by the EVM.

So any mismatch necessitates the full audit of 100% VVPAT slips of the constituency & correction of the EVM results.

This full audit ensures the people's mandate prevails over EVM mandate.

Currently ECI does VVPAT audit of 1 booth/constituency -

For example Gujarat had 50128 booths for 182 constituencies, so VVPAT audit was done in 182/50128 booths , that is an audit of 0.36% VVPATs.

This audit is statistically insignificant & its strange that ECI is not yet carrying out even its July 2017 decision of 5% VVPAT audit.

Currently the ECI EVM VVPAT manual has no provision/clause to ensure full VVPAT audit on detecting mismatch in the sample audit.

Adequate sample size or percentage of VVPAT audit

An analysis by ISI faculty titled "Transparent use of statistical methods can help detect rigged electronic voting machines" published in Hindustan times tells

“Let us take four different possibilities of level of potential rigging into account at the constituency level: 25%, 10%, 5% and 0.5%. We assume an equal distribution of 1.8 million EVMs across 543 constituencies. Tallying 11, 29, 58 and 534 V-VPATs per constituency would allow us to find a rigged EVM with 95% probability for each of these four scenarios.”

This is after considering 1.8 million EVMs in equal distribution in 543 constituencies , that is about 3314 EVM/VVPATs per each of 543 constituencies.

So we need at least 16% VVPAT audit to tell with 95% probability, that an election won on 0.5% margin is valid.

ECI flip-flops on VVPAT audit

On May 12, 2017 after meeting political parties on EVM/VVPAT issues, ECI made statement that it will audit a certain percentage of VVPATs & framework for the same will be announced shortly.

On July 6, 2017 **Indian Express reported on the front page “EC to tally paper trail slips with EVMs in 5% booths in each assembly seat”**.

Excerpt from the article

“The decision on compulsory counting of paper trail slips, which was approved by the full Commission before Nasim Zaidi retired as the Chief Election Commissioner on Wednesday, is a response to the demand made by political parties at a meeting held by the EC on May 12.”

- In spite of this 5% audit decision— On October 10, 2017 Indian express published report titled “Will compare VVPAT paper slips in one polling station of all 182 assembly constituencies: CEC on Gujarat polls”
- On December 7, 2017 hearing a petition on use of VVPATs & request for VVPAT audit in Gujarat Elections, Gujarat HC inquired from the EC, whether any framework for sample counting of VVPAT slips has been set up.
- In December 8, 2017 IE report (Gujarat elections: High Court notice to EC on counting of VVPAT slips) on the above December 7 Gujarat HC order it is reported that “The EC, however, opposed the petition claiming that EVMs are tamper-proof and paper trail can't be counted.”

After this Gujarat HC intervention, ECI made press release on December 8, 2017 that 1 booth/constituency will be audited in elections.

On December 1 ,2018 Economic times published report titled —‘After ISI report, EC to decide on raising polling stations where VVPAT slips matched with results’

In it then CEC tells that ECI have asked for an ISI report on VVPAT sample size required for “99.99% confidence level with near zero error”.

This will need a much higher sample size than 16% needed for detecting 0.5% rigging with 95% probability.(as can be seen in slide no 7)

This sounds promising , but the ISI report is not yet available, at least in the public domain.

Mass voter deletions

Several lakhs of voters were deleted by ECI from voter list by linking Aadhaar in several states .

In Telengana this amounted to about 22 lakh people or about 8% of electorate. (**Mass deletion of voter names reported in Telangana polls**)

After Disenfranchisement of lakhs of Indians, the Telengana CEO “Apologised”!..(“**Sorry, will take special measures next time': Telangana CEO apologises to Jwala Gutta, others for missing voters names**”)

Then on January 1, 2019 EC went on to announce (**Rural polls to be held in three phases**) dates for Telengana panchayat elections without rectifying the mass voter deletion.

EVM Vote Mismatch

In Telengana Assembly Elections 2018, votes counted in several constituencies were significantly different than votes polled. Deccan Chronicle reported it on front page as "Tally mismatch in Telangana Assembly poll results: Are winners losers?".

A full immediate open VVPAT audit in these constituencies was the minimum step needed to be taken by ECI in this serious incidence.

But even with written request from political party representatives nothing was done by ECI.

The CEO later tried to refute the newspaper reports, but those attempts fell flat ("CEO's clarification on vote mismatch proves wrong").

This mass voter deletion & widespread EVM vote mismatch was mostly not covered by the national or other state level mainstream media.

On 27th December, 2018 VVPAT slips were found to be removed from VVPATs in Jubilee Hills Constituency , This happened despite EC clause that printed slips must not be removed from VVPATs for 45 days after declaration of results .([Slip out: VVPAT slips go 'missing' in Jubilee Hills, Congress demands re-poll](#))

Paper ballots must be preferred

Paper Ballots makes election process transparent & allows the common voter to easily understand the election process. It ensures each vote is counted by direct verification.

Only real advantages EVM may have over Paper Ballot is prevent votes being invalid & slowing ballot stuffing , that can happen during booth capturing.

But with EVM, instead of booth capturing, capturing can happen at state level or a national level and can still go undetected without proper audit of adequate sample size.

After doing proper audit we need full tally on mismatch & an accountable ECI to ensure people's mandate prevails over EVM mandate.



Steps to ensure People's Mandate prevails in elections

Political parties & Citizens must take a firm stand without further delay that-

- **Paper ballots must be used at least in problem free areas.**

Political parties & Citizens must not go into EVM/VVPAT elections without -

- **Proper VVPAT audit with adequate sample size—Every vote must count -At the very least we must have a VVPAT audit that is capable of detecting upto 0.5% rigging with 95% probability ,which requires about 16% audit as pointed out by analysis of ISI faculty(see slide7).**
- **Election commission must implement rules or clause ensuring necessitated full audit/tally of 100% VVPATs of a constituency in case of mismatch in the sample audit.**

- Extra adequate/set number of VVPATs must be tallied on contestants request for recount. Contestants may be allowed to pick VVPATs for this audit. (removal of notorious clause 56(D) (2) that has essentially taken away right of candidate to ask for VVPAT tally)
- Randomisation must be transparently & independently done
- In case VVPAT slips are not properly recorded , provision must be there for repoll if indicated by the margin.

(contd)

Political parties must Educate members, leaders, election agents & Citizens on –

- How verifying VVPAT slip at time of voting alone means nothing & tallying(auditing) VVPAT slips to EVM, is the step that actually checks whether the vote was correctly recorded & reproduced by EVM
- How election results are not valid or final till proper audit with adequate sample size & full VVPAT tally(if needed)is done
- Importance of transparent & independent Randomisation
- Meaning of mismatch in sample audit
- The necessity of full audit on mismatch.

Key Points

ECI has not been doing proper audit & has not yet carried out even its July 2017 decision of 5% VVPAT audit .

ECI EVM VVPAT manual doesn't have a provision/clause for full audit on mismatch, which is a basic & grave omission from ECI.

**Proper VVPAT audit with
adequate sample size
followed by full audit on
any mismatch is essential
part of voting right of
every Indian.**



**Without proper audit election
results carry no credibility & are
essentially invalid.**

**Even if there was no evidence
of EVM error/rigging till now , it
is no excuse to evade proper
audit in future elections which
is a different event.**

In Telengana at least in 31 constituencies number of votes counted were significantly different than votes polled . This essentially means EVMs are prone to record votes incorrectly. It proves conclusively ECI EVM results cant be depended on & We must ensure every vote counts.

**Clause 56(D)(2) of election rules
which leaves decision to count
(VVPATs on candidate's request) to
sole discretion of returning officer is
grossly misused .**

**It has made the right of candidate
to ask for VVPAT tally essentially
nonexistent.**



Paper Ballots are much preferred in front of a technology(EVM VVPAT) that can and has been made unaccountable.



Wake Up!

Fulltext & links to referenced Newsreports & other sources